

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00718 230410Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4353

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 0718

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MU
SUBJECT: ARMS FOR OMAN

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY SANA FROM MUSCAT MAY 20.
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 0718

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MU
SUBJECT: ARMS FOR OMAN

REF: SANA 2264

1. INQUIRIES YOU HAVE RECEIVED FROM OMANI EMBASSY OFFICIALS
IN SANA DO REFLECT PITCHES MADE HERE IN MUSCAT. JUST BEFORE
HE LEFT POST, AMBASSADORE WOLLE GOT SERIES OF REQUESTS FROM
HIGH OMANGOV PERSONALITIES REGARDING ARMS SALES. ORIGIN OF
REQUESTS SEEMED TO BE PALACE AND INTELLIGENCE APPARATUS, WITH
FOREIGN MINISTRY ALSO INVOLVED. REQUESTS SEEMED TO STEM SOLELY
FROM HIGH-LEVEL THINKING IN THESE ORGANIZATIONS RATHER THAN IN
OMANI MILITARY, BECAUSE VIEWS WE RECEIVED FROM LATTER WERE
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PAGE 02 MUSCAT 00718 230410Z

DETECTABLY LUKEWARM ABOUT NEED FOR SOME OF THE HARDWARE SOUGHT.
THIS WAS REPORTED TO DEPARTMENT.

2. PARALLELING THESE REQUESTS THERE HAS BEEN A SPATE OF HIGHEST-
LEVEL OMANGOV STATEMENTS, INITIALLY PRIVATE BUT NOW PUBLIC,
EXPRESSING ALARM ABOUT EVENTS IN SOUTH YEMEN AND THE HORN OF
AFRICA. (SEE MUSCAT A-23 OF 5/10/78) YOUR TALKS WITH RASHID

LAMKE WERE AN EARLY WARNING OF THIS. THE LATEST EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN ARE, OF COURSE, AN ADDITIONAL CAUSE OF WORRY TO THE OMANIS. AS WITH THE ARMS REQUESTS, THE OMANI MILITARY SEEMS SOMEWHAT LESS ALARMED THAN THE POLITICAL WINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

3. THE QUESTION NATURALLY ARISES HOW MUCH THESE EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN ABOUT THE HORN ARE GENUINE AND HOW MUCH THEY ARE CONTRIVED TO JUSTIFY THE ARMS REQUEST. WE DO NOT KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT, BUT SUSPECT THERE IS SOME OF BOTH ELEMENTS. THE OMANI WORRY ABOUT THESE EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IS UNDERSTANDABLE, AND THE MORE RELAXED VIEW BF THE OMANI MILITARY (OFFICERED MAINLY BYTRITISH) MAY NOT BE WHOLLY OBJECTIVE OR TUNED INTO THE POLITICAL DANGERS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE OMANIS SEEM TO BE PUTTING IT ON A BIT THICK IN THEIR CRPES OF ALARM.

4. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR REPORTING OF THE OMANI APPROACHES MADE AT YOUR END. THEY ADD A DIMENSION TO WHAT'S GOING ON. IN FACT, WASHINGTON MAY BE INTERESTED IN THIS LATEST WRINKLE, AND IF YOU AGREE WE SUGGEST YOU REPEAT REFTEL TO THE DEPARTMENT AND WE DO THE SAME WITH THIS CABLE. LET US KNOW WHAT YOU DECIDE. SIZER UNQUOTE
SIZER

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Message Attributes

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